



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

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Human Trafficking Bill Passes

(SANTA FE)—Attorney General Gary King’s legislative priority, SB 71, making human trafficking a state crime has cleared its last hurdle in the Legislature. After a Senate vote of concurrence, the bill, sponsored by Senator Mary Jane Garcia, is on its way to the Governor for an expected signature.

“On behalf of the victims of human trafficking, I want to thank the Legislature, especially Senator Mary Jane Garcia, the Governor for giving the bill a message to make it germane this session, my staff and the many people who helped us get this bill passed,” says Attorney General Gary King. “New Mexico is no longer the lone border state without a law banning human slavery.”

According to U.S. government estimates, thousands of men, women, and children are trafficked to the United States for the purposes of sexual and labor exploitation. An unknown number of U.S. citizens and legal residents are trafficked within the country primarily for sexual servitude and, to a lesser extent, forced labor.

AG King will conduct a news conference at 2:30pm this afternoon at his Santa Fe office to discuss what the passage of SB 71 means for New Mexico and the problem of human trafficking.

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